

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-40 and add new claims 41-81 as follows:

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) A medical device, comprising:

an elongate body;

a plurality of elongate slots formed on the elongate body, wherein a portion of at least one slot extends along a straight line axis and has a first substantially concave sidewall.

42. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the body has a

longitudinal axis and the straight line axis is transverse to the longitudinal axis.

43. (New) The medical device of claim 42, wherein the straight line axis is

perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

44. (New) The medical device of claim 43, wherein the entire slot extends

along a straight line axis.

45. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the entire slot extends

along a straight line axis.

46. (New) The medical device of claim 41, further comprising a second substantially concave sidewall.

47. (New) The medical device of claim 46, wherein the body has a longitudinal axis and the straight line axis is transverse to the longitudinal axis.

48. (New) The medical device of claim 47, wherein the straight line axis is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

49. (New) The medical device of claim 48, wherein the entire slot extends along a straight line axis.

50. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein at the substantially concave sidewall has a uniform degree of curvature.

51. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the at least one slot has a first end and a second end and extends along the straight line axis therebetween.

52. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the plurality of slots are located radially about the body.

53. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the plurality of slots are located axially along the body.

54. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein at least two of the plurality of slots are located radially about the body, and wherein at least two of the plurality of slots are located axially along the body.

55. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the plurality of slots are formed in a stainless steel portion of the elongated body.

56. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the plurality of concave slots are formed in a plastic portion of the elongated body.

57. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the medical device is a needle.

58. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein the medical device is a catheter.

59. (New) The medical device of claim 41, wherein at least one of the plurality of slots has a first and a second substantially concave sidewall located on opposite sides of a substantially convex bottom portion, wherein the bottom portion extends along a straight line axis.

60. (New) The medical device of claim 59, wherein the slot further comprises a first and a second endwall opposing each other.

61. (New) The medical device of claim 60, wherein at least one endwall is substantially concave.

62. (New) A medical device, comprising:  
an elongate body;  
a plurality of elongate slots formed on the elongate body, wherein at least one of the plurality of slots has a first substantially concave sidewall located on a first side of a substantially convex bottom portion, wherein the bottom portion extends along a straight line axis.

63. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the body has a longitudinal axis and the straight line axis is parallel to the longitudinal axis.

64. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the substantially concave sidewall has a uniform degree of curvature.

65. (New) The medical device of claim 64, wherein the slot further comprises a second substantially concave sidewall located on a second side of the substantially convex bottom portion, wherein the second side is opposite the first.

66. (New) The medical device of claim 65, wherein the slot further comprises a first and a second endwall opposing each other.

67. (New) The medical device of claim 66, wherein at least one endwall is substantially concave.

68. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the plurality of slots are located radially about the body.

69. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the plurality of slots are located axially along the body.

70. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein at least two of the plurality of slots are located radially about the body, and wherein at least two of the plurality of slots are located axially along the body.

71. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the plurality of slots are formed in a stainless steel portion of the elongated body.

72. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the plurality of concave slots are formed in a plastic portion of the elongated body.

73. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the medical device is a needle.

74. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the medical device is a catheter.
75. (New) The medical device of claim 62, wherein a portion of a second slot extends along a second straight line axis and has two substantially concave sidewalls.
76. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the body has a longitudinal axis and the second straight line axis is transverse to the longitudinal axis.
77. (New) The medical device of claim 76, wherein the second straight line axis is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.
78. (New) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the entire slot extends along a straight line axis.
79. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the entire slot extends along a straight line axis.
80. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein at least one of the substantially concave sidewalls of the second slot has a uniform degree of curvature.
81. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the second slot has a first end and a second end and extends along the second straight line axis therebetween.